

2. (ONCE AMENDED) A component management device comprising:
a storage unit which stores a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level; and
a management unit which manages the component data base stored in said storage unit and which provides a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium for recording a component management program for making a computer execute [the steps of]:
storing in a storage unit a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, inspection, and the like of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level; and
managing the component data base stored in said storage unit and providing a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network.

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claim 9 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable of rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2 and 10 are amended.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 7, 8 AND 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Page 2 of the Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as

being anticipated by Sakayori et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,336,078 (Hereinafter "Sakayori").

Sakayori relates to a system for management of parts of a product. Information regarding an ordered component is compared with information regarding a delivered component. A database stores information about the product that was also received, and if there is a change in the part then this is also reported to an administrator. The "quality information" referred to in Sakayori relates to a model number and a maker name of the product.

Claim 1 recites, "**a storage unit which stores a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product as a component data base**, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level; a server which manages the component data base stored in said storage unit; and at least one client, connected to said server via a network, which takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via said network." (emphasis added).

Sakayori does not relate to components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product as a component data base. Sakayori is actually silent about the actual types of products or components used therein. Further, any product in Sakayori is considered individually, but such products are not components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product. The database in Sakayori stores information about products, but not products as claimed.

Page 2 of the Office Action cites the Abstract of Sakayori as disclosing claim 1. However, the Abstract does not disclose the features discussed above.

Claim 1 also recites, "at least one client, connected to said server via a network, which takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via said network." Sakayori transmits updated component information to a database, but does not take out a predetermined component from said storage unit via said network. Page 3 of the Office Action cites Figure 2, column 1, lines 23-26 of Sakayori, however, this relates to data that is registered in the database.

In order for an anticipation rejection to be proper, the reference must disclose each and every feature of the claim. Since the above features are not disclosed in Sakayori, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is not unpatentable over Sakayori.

Claim 2, in view of the above remarks, is also not anticipated by Sakayori. Further, claim 2 recites, "a management unit which manages the component data base stored in said storage

unit and which provides a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network." Sakayori does not provide a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network. The Office Action does not indicate which part of Sakayori discloses this feature.

Claims 7, 8 and 10 are dependent upon the above-mentioned claims, which for the above reasons, are not disclosed by Sakayori. Claims 7, 8 and 10 also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art, and the Applicant submits claims 7, 8 and 10 are independently patentable as well.

Therefore, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3, 4, AND 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Page 3 of the Office Action rejects claims 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Sakayori in view of Kavanagh et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,838,965 (Hereinafter "Kavanagh").

Claims 3, 4 and 6 are dependent upon claim 2, which for the above reasons, should be allowed over the applied art. Claims 3, 4 and 6 also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art, and the Applicant submits claims 3, 4 and 6 are independently patentable as well.

Therefore, in view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/17/02

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims (all of the claims are listed below, whether or not amended):

1. (ONCE AMENDED) A component management system comprising:
a storage unit which stores a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level;
a server which manages the component data base stored in said storage unit; and
at least one client, connected to said server via a network, which takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via said network.

2. (ONCE AMENDED) A component management device comprising:
a storage unit which stores a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, and inspection of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level; and
a management unit which manages the component data base stored in said storage unit and which provides a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network.

3. (AS UNAMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said plurality of components constitute a hierarchical structure and said storage unit stores meta-information expressing the hierarchical structure and said client takes out a desired component from said plurality of components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta information.

4. (AS UNAMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2,

wherein the meta-information comprises taking-out limiting information related to the permission/non-permission of taking-out for each component, and wherein said client takes out the applicable component based on the taking-out limiting information only when said client gets the permission.

5. (AS UNAMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said component comprises patch information for automatically performing a patch processing to a firmware, and wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware based on the patch information.

6. (AS UNAMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said client retrieves a desired component from among said plurality of components based on the meta-information.

7. (AS UNAMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said management unit sends a notice of revision to said client via said network when a component already stored in said storage unit is revised and sends a notice of new registration to said client via said network when a new component is registered in said storage unit, and wherein said client takes out said component at an arbitrary timing after said client receives the notice of revision or the notice of new registration.

8. (AS UNAMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said management unit conducts communications related to the development consignment of said product with a development maker side client placed in an external development maker and connected thereto via said network.

9. (AS UNAMENDED) The component management device according to claim 2, wherein said management unit conducts communications for getting the permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting said product with an author side client placed in the author side of the catalog and registers the catalog as a data base in said storage unit when it gets the permission.

10. (ONCE AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium for recording a

component management program for making a computer execute [the steps of]:

storing in a storage unit a plurality of components related to hardware and firmware which are necessary for the development, manufacture, inspection, and the like of a product as a component data base, wherein said hardware and said firmware constituting said product are at the same management level; and

managing the component data base stored in said storage unit and providing a control when a client takes out a predetermined component from said storage unit via a network.